

# VETERAN'S CORNER

## Two brothers each received Purple Heart in famous WWII battles, One in Iwo Jima in South Pacific; other in the Battle of the Bulge

BY DALE POTTS

Tualatin resident Marc Anderson's father and his uncle each received a Purple Heart for their service in famous World War II battles. Marc's father, George Anderson was a Marine at Iwo Jima in the South Pacific. George's brother, Leroy Anderson, was an Army soldier in the Battle of the Bulge in Europe.

Marc said his dad did not talk much about Iwo Jima. His father was wounded in a pre-dawn attack on February 27, 1945 when a Japanese soldier threw a hand grenade into his foxhole where he was operating a machine gun. All the other Marines there were killed. His military records say he was wounded with a shell fragment on his right leg, another shell fragment on his left upper back and shoulder, and shell fragment scars on his back, left hand and face. After nine months in the hospital, he was discharged from active duty. The VA sent him to Syracuse University under the GI Bill to study architecture. He later transferred to the University of Oklahoma where he studied with Bruce Goff, one of Frank Lloyd Wright's protégées. He got Mr. Wright his only high-rise job, the Price Tower in Bartlesville, OK, by introducing him to the owner, Mr. Price, and the contractor. He became an accomplished architect in Ohio and Pittsburgh and worked all over the country.

Marc's uncle is 95 and lives in Connecticut. When I talked to Leroy by telephone, he enthusiastically shared his story with me. He told me that after basic training and testing, the Army sent him to college in Potsdam, New York to study engineering for two years. That was shortened to 18 months when he and his classmates were told to pack their bags, the Army needed to prepare them for battle in Europe. He trained as a crew member for a 55 mm anti-tank gun on a truck. Leroy was sent to the densely forested Ardennes region of Wallonia in Belgium during the winter to serve in the Battle of the Bulge, the largest and bloodiest fought by the United States in Europe in WWII. The truck he was assigned to went on patrol for a week and then returned. On his first day back, Leroy said he pulled guard duty where he suffered frostbite. He was put on a "wounded train" and sent to a hospital in Paris to recover where he was required to shave off his trademark mustache, as well as his beard. He remembers hearing of FDR's

death while on a tour in Paris. He spent some time doing Mess Hall duty in England until offered a wonderful assignment. After finishing high school, he had worked for an uncle who ran an art gallery and auction in Washington, DC. That qualified him to help catalog and sell recovered confiscated Nazi items stored in the German embassy in London by the Allies. He fondly remembers that he wore civilian clothes for eight months with that duty until returned to the states on the aircraft carrier USS Wasp which crossed the Atlantic in six days, loaded with servicemen returning home. He was discharged about the same time as his brother George. Someone advised him to check with the VA for a pension because of his injury. The VA awarded him a \$10 monthly disability payment in 1946 which has grown to \$130 a month. He went on to establish a very successful retail business, Anderson Sales, in Ashtabula, Ohio.

Marc has lived in Tualatin for ten years. He is an environmental engineer and certified water right examiner. He also is involved in food, gardening, and health, and has worked with the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine on projects to reverse type 2 diabetes with diet. He participates in the city program growing food for our food bank to distribute to low income families. Marc and our country all had tremendous role models with the two brothers and other military men and women as well as family members who underwent rationing and other Homefront

sacrifices for the war effort, were part of what Tom Brokaw calls "The Greatest Generation", by demonstrating extraordinary character.

Dale G. Potts has organized and MC'd Tualatin's Memorial Day observation for the past 13 years. He is a Navy Vietnam vet, serving as the Public Affairs Officer of the Aircraft Carrier USS Yorktown. After active duty, he remained in the reserves, retiring as a Navy Captain (same rank as an Army Colonel). His civilian career was primarily as the Oregon Public Affairs Officer for IRS. Contact Dale at [vet.dale@gmail.com](mailto:vet.dale@gmail.com).



Brothers George (on right) and Leroy Anderson



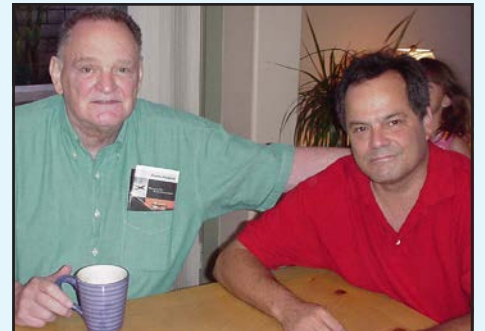
Captain Dale Potts



The Battle of the Bulge was Germany's last major offensive, conducted in winter conditions in Belgium. France and Luxembourg on the Western Front. It caught the Allies by surprise.



Leroy (left) and George with their parents and sisters.



Marc and his father in 2001. George died in 2002 at age 76.



**Conneaut Gunner Missing in Action, 3 County Men Hurt**

**CASUALTY LIST**  
**WARREN ROGERS, JR.**, Conneaut, missing.  
**GEORGE W. ANDERSON, JR.**, Ashtabula, wounded.  
**ANDREW J. ROSKOVICS**, Ashtabula, third brother to be wounded.  
**JOHN J. OROZKY**, Monroe, wounded.  
**WARREN ROGERS, JR.**, Pfc. Warren Rogers, Jr., 21, machine gunner serving with Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army, has been missing in action in Germany since Feb. 11, according to a War Dept. telegram received Friday by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Rogers, Conneaut, Ohio.  
 Pfc. Rogers entered service Aug. 22, 1944 and received basic training at Camp Hood, Tex.  
 The missing soldier commenced his service immediately after receiving a bachelor of science degree in chemistry at Ohio State University, where he was a member of an honorary fraternity.  
 He was graduated from Conneaut High School in 1941, at which time he was co-salutatorian of his class.  
 which he reported he was on his way to Iwo Jima.  
 Pfc. Anderson has a brother in service, Pfc. Leroy V. Anderson, of the army, now confined to a hospital in England as a result of frostbite suffered in action.  
**ANDREW J. ROSKOVICS**, Pfc. Andrew J. Roskovics, 25, third son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Roskovics, 1145 E. 18th-st., to be injured in action, was reported slightly wounded Feb. 25 in Germany.  
 Word was received by his wife, Mrs. Lottie Roskovics, Eureka-rd., Ashtabula, the couple has a three-and-a-half-month-old daughter.  
 Prior to entering service in July 1944, Pfc. Roskovics was employed on a Great Lakes steamer. He attended Ashtabula High School. His army training was received at Camp Hood, Tex., and he went overseas in December, 1944.  
 His brothers, who were previously wounded, include 73 Steven Roskovics, wounded Dec. 1 in Holland, and S. Sgt. Emery, who has been overseas three-and-a-half years, wounded Sept. 18 in France.  
**JOHN J. OROZKY**, Mr. and Mrs. John Orozky, of Monroe, have received War Dept. telegram notifying them their son, Pfc. John J. Orozky, was seriously wounded in action in Manila, Feb. 11.  
 Pfc. Orozky, serving with the paratroops, entered service January 2, 1945, and has been overseas 10 months.  
**PASS RED CROSS GOAL**  
**WILLOUGHBY**, March 12—The Ohio Rubber Co. announced today that its Red Cross goal of \$8,000 over in September.  
 His parents previously had received a letter from their son in 600.

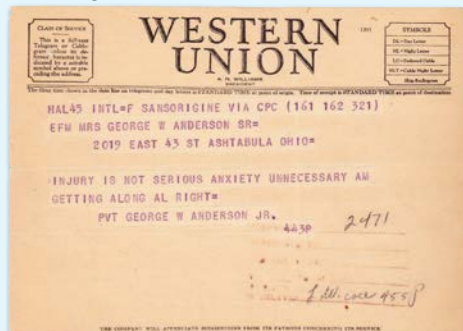
March 12, 1945 newspaper article about George's wounding



Leroy, earlier this year, still sporting a mustache at age 95, with his third daughter Brenda.



Joe Rosenthal's famous Feb 23, 1945 flag raising photo on Iwo Jima won a Pulitzer prize.



Telegram sent by George to his parents after wounded.



Battle of Iwo Jima was one of the bloodiest in Pacific theatre, costing 6,821 American lives.

### VETERANS RECOGNITION BREAKFAST

**NOVEMBER 10 • SIGN-UP EARLY!**

Signups are underway for the city of Tualatin's annual Veterans Recognition Breakfast. It is on Thursday, November 10, at the Juanita Pohl Center, 8513 SW Tualatin Road. The event starts at 8am and continues through 9:30am. Attendance is limited to the first 150 registrants. The event is open to all local vets and features a delicious breakfast by Dalton's NW Catering. There will be several honored speakers. Drawings will determine winners of door prizes donated by local merchants.

The breakfast coordinators are asking for pictures of all local veterans wearing their military uniform regardless of whether they attend or not. These will be reproduced and placed around the breakfast area. Mail pictures to Pohl Center, 8513 SW Tualatin Road, Attn: Vet breakfast or email to [MSaviello@ci.tualatin.or.us](mailto:MSaviello@ci.tualatin.or.us).

**THIS EVENT IS FREE TO ALL VETERANS. NON VETERANS PAY \$10. TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 503 691-3061.**